

I. AMENDMENT

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.-62. (canceled)

63. (previously presented) An *in vitro* method of screening for modulators of human C-reactive protein in serum comprising:

obtaining a human C-reactive protein from human serum;
contacting the C-reactive protein with at least a first candidate substance *in vitro*;
assaying for an interaction between the C-reactive protein and the candidate substance by
assaying for C-reactive protein induction of the expression of ICAM-1, VCAM,
or E-selectin in endothelial cells.

64. (previously presented) The method of claim 63, wherein the identity of the first candidate substance is unknown prior to performance of the screening method.

65. (previously presented) The method of claim 63, wherein the first candidate substance is comprised in a mixture of possible candidate substances.

66. (previously presented) The method of claim 63, further comprising determining the identity of the first candidate substance after the performance of the screening method.

67. (previously presented) The method of claim 63, further comprising isolating the first candidate substance after the performance of the screening method.

68. (previously presented) The method of claim 63, further comprising determining characteristics of the first candidate substance after the performance of the screening method.

II. RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

A. Status of the Claims

Claims 1-6, 14-18, 28-37, and 63-68 were pending prior to the Office Action dated December 4, 2003 ("Action"). Claims 1-6, 14-18, and 28-37 are cancelled herein, without disclaimer or prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to pursue any of the cancelled claims in a continuation or reissue application.


B. Allowable Claims

In the Action, claims 63-68 were indicated as allowable. Thus, this amendment places this case in better condition for allowance or appeal.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that the foregoing remarks fully respond to all outstanding matters for this application.

Respectfully submitted,



Gina N. Shishima
Reg. No. 45,104
Attorney for Applicants

FULBRIGHT & JAWORSKI L.L.P.
600 Congress Avenue, Suite 2400
Austin, Texas 78701
(512) 474-5201
(512) 536-4598 (facsimile)

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